



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

Jackie MacLean, Director

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 263-9100 Fax (206) 296-5260
TTY Relay 711

Regional Human Services and Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Joint Board Meeting Summary

**January 22, 2009 2-4 p.m.
Fairwood Library – Renton**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call

A quorum was declared.

Regional Human Services Levy Oversight Board (RHSLOB) Members Present: Joe Ingram (Co-Chair), Kathleen Hadaller

Veterans Citizen Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Members Present: Doug Hoople (Chair), Ron Forest, Kathy Lewis, Bill Wood, Francisco Ivarra, Roger Welles, Oren Hadaller

Board Members Excused/Absent: Doris Tevaseu, Dorry Elias-Garcia, Edith Nelson, Kathy Brasch, Kevin Bernadt, Robert Stephens, Jr., Stan Gunno, Gary Kingsbury

County Staff Present: Marcy Kubbs, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Elaine Goddard, DCHS; Linda Peterson, DCHS; Debora Gay, DCHS; Sherry Hamilton, DCHS; Joel Estey, DCHS

Guests: Councilmember Reagan Dunn; Paulette Payne, YWCA; Gwendolyn Williams Catholic Community Services; Wynne Declan, Sound Mental Health; Andrea Yip, City of Seattle, Aging and Disability Services; Terra McCaffree, City of Seattle, Aging and Disability Services; Cynthia Lefever

Metropolitan King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn

Douglas Hoople introduced Reagan Dunn, County Councilmember for District 9. Councilmember Dunn thanked the Veterans and Human Services Levy Oversight boards for inviting him to the meeting. He supported putting the levy before the voters in 2005 believes the levy supports important services.

The County is currently experiencing a financial shortfall due to a reduction in tax revenues, and it is important that levy funds be used as effectively as possible to maintain public support. The Council will be looking for a recommendation from the boards to reauthorize the levy. He will be looking for individuals from District 9 to fill the vacancies that exist on the levy boards.

Review of Meeting Summary

The draft October, 2008 meeting summaries were reviewed and no edits were identified.

ACTION: The October, 2008 meeting summary was approved

Report from RHSLOB and VCLOB

Chair and Co-Chair Report – Doug Hoople and Joe Ingram

In the fourth quarter of 2008, King County staff completed 3 RFP processes and board members assisted with 3 RFP review panels to evaluate community agency proposals. These were for:

1. Capital Funding Projects - Eight agencies were awarded levy funds for capital projects in this funding round. This brings to 11 the number of capital projects to receive levy funding.
2. Supportive Housing Services – Two agencies received levy funds for housing support services which may include such things as advocacy, life skills training, employment counseling, job search assistance, money management, legal assistance, children's services and interpreter services.
3. Forensic Intensive Supportive Housing (FISH) – The goal of this project is to secure permanent supportive housing for adults with histories of long-term homelessness and involvement with the King County Criminal Justice System.

In December the board presented their second quarter financial report to the Council.

The levy oversight boards held 3 regular monthly and 3 subcommittee meetings with members donating a total of volunteer hours.

The board heard progress reports and project updates on two levy funded activities:

Mobile Medical Unit project held four clinics for homeless individuals in south King County in Federal Way, Kent, Auburn and Tukwila. Each clinic was coordinated with a free meal offered at a church and attended by chronically homeless people. Over 25 homeless individuals were received medical services at the four clinics.

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) is managing the program to provide housing, enhanced support services and education and employment services to single parents exiting the criminal justice system. Together, these activities form a comprehensive program serving single parents from the time they are incarcerated,

through the time they are reunited with their children and stable, in permanent housing. Contracts have been completed for this project.

The boards are gearing up to start providing presentations to the community to raise awareness about how levy funded services are improving lives of individuals in our community. The Committee to End Homelessness, which has a well organized Speakers Bureau, is assisting in the development of materials for the levy Speaker's Bureau and training levy board members. So far, 11 board members have agreed to give presentations about the levy in the community.

Panel Discussion: Levy Services in the Community

PEARLS Program -Andrea Yip and Terra McCaffree, City of Seattle, Aging and Disability Services

PEARLS is an in-home counseling program to help older adults with minor depression. Clients are screened, and if they are diagnosed with more severe depression they are referred to more intensive services.

The PEARLS program helps reduce symptoms by improving clients' problem solving skills, and increasing their involvement in positive activities. Levy funding has helped expand the program to serve African American and Filipino veterans. There are 106 clients enrolled, with twenty percent from south/southeast King County. In 2008 thirty-five finished the program and 86 percent reported reduced symptoms and/or improved health. Most of the other enrolled clients will finish the program in 2009.

A secondary goal of the program is to help clients' stabilize or maintain their housing situation. They are also assisted in finding community resources and getting more connected to their community. Once they leave the program, the problem solving techniques they learned help them to maintain their health and wellness. Also many receive ongoing case management services.

***Housing Stability Program - Paulette Payne, YWCA**

The YWCA works with Solid Ground to assist clients in need of financial assistance and housing. Since being implemented, this program has served 574 households, 290 of which were veterans. The YWCA also works with other agencies to help alleviate other difficult situations, and help clients connect to support systems. The Family Self-sufficiency Program helps stabilize families for the long term to avoid facing homelessness again, and also teaches financial literacy. Veterans and family of veterans can qualify easily. However, they are still fine tuning outreach to veterans.

PATH Project - Declan Wynne, Sound Mental Health.

Many SMH programs are funded through the levy. The FACT project, which works to reduce recidivism, and the FISH project, which provides wraparound services for

chronically homeless, both receive 100% of their funding from the levy. SMH also operates a mobile medical van in south King County and they are working with LIHI to acquire housing units for vets, military and chronically homeless.

SMH coordinates closely with the VA and vet integration services. They are working with jail programs and outreach to help identify and document veterans receiving services, and they are collecting data on what types of services they need. Chronic homeless are hard to find and connect with. Levy funds have allowed SMH to hire 2 extra staff, which has enabled them to expand and provide more services. An increased number of people have received medical mobile service, but there is an issue getting them follow-up services. They hope to put a database in the mobile unit to help them access the medical history of clients and try to reconnect them to agencies.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New business

Douglas Hoople reminded board members to review the board calendar located on the levy website. Look at the schedule online. In February there will be a meeting to discuss Strategies 2 and 4. That same week, there will be a communications meeting. It is very important that the public is informed on what is happening with the levy money. They need to hear the good news.

Public comment:

Cynthia Lefever attended the meeting and expressed interest in joining the VCLOB. She is the mother and caregiver of a veteran who was catastrophically injured in Iraq in 2004. Through her efforts to assist her son and other veterans she has become an advocate for them, particularly those experiencing traumatic brain injury or post traumatic stress disorder. Staff will send her an application for board membership.

New Business

Old Business

- II. Douglas Hoople reminded the panel to look at the schedule online. In February there will be a meeting to discuss Strategies 2 and 4. That same week, there will be a communications meeting. It is very important that the public is informed on what is happening with the levy money. They need to hear the good news.

- III. Public comment: Cynthia Lefever, mother of a retired veteran and advocate for veterans with traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder, attended the meeting and expressed interested in joining the VCLOB. The board will send her an application.

The board members were assured that veteran status is an important measure that is being collected for all appropriate projects.

Petitions/Communications (Public Comment)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.